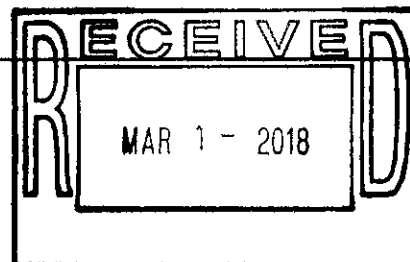


LABOR RELATIONS



February 28, 2018

Mr. Brian J. Wagner
President
National Association of Postal Supervisors
1727 King Street, Suite 400
Alexandria, VA 22314-2753

Dear Brian:

The Postal Service proposes to add to the Inspection Service Manual (ISM), Section 3-5.4, *Authorization of Handgun Mounted Flashlights*.

The purpose of this change is to authorize the use of handgun mounted flashlights by Postal Inspectors, Postal Police Managers, and Postal Police Officers. This revision also sets forth the policies regarding the standards and use of handgun mounted flashlights.

We have enclosed:

- A copy of the proposed ISM, with the additional language
- A copy of a narrative explanation of the purpose and effect of the proposed language

Please contact Bruce Nicholson at extension 7773 if you have questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Alan S. Moore".

Alan S. Moore
Manager
Labor Relations Policies and Programs

Enclosures



UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

OFFICE OF COUNSEL

January 25, 2018

Alan S. Moore
Manager
Labor Relations Policy and Programs
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Room 9318
Washington, DC 20260-4110

Re: Summary of proposed addition of Handgun Mounted Flashlight policy to Inspection Service Manual (ISM)

Dear Mr. Moore:

The enclosed documents represent the proposed ISM policy section regarding Handgun Mounted Flashlights. Currently, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service does not have a policy regarding the use of handgun mounted flashlights.

The proposed policy sets forth the following:

- a) Authorization for use of handgun mounted flashlights by Postal Inspectors and Postal Police Managers and Officers
- b) Minimum standards for handgun mounted flashlights
- c) Requirement of appropriate holster to be used with handgun mounted flashlight with costs covered by user
- d) Authorization and qualification procedures
- e) Prohibition on use of laser targeting systems
- f) Limitations on use of handgun mounted flashlights

The policy will be placed into Section 3-5, *Assignment of Weapons*, under subsection 3-5.4, *Authorization of Handgun Mounted Flashlights*.


Sandra L. Spector
Chief Counsel

Proposed Handgun Mounted Flashlight Policy:

3-5.4 Authorization of Handgun Mounted Flashlights

Handgun mounted flashlights and corresponding holsters are authorized for use by Postal Inspectors, Postal Police Managers and Postal Police Officers subject to the following requirements and conditions.

3-5.4.1 Handgun Mounted Flashlights

Handgun mounted flashlights must meet the following criteria:

- a. Designed for use with the specific make and model of the Postal Inspector, Postal Police Manager or Postal Police Officer's standard issue or agency-authorized handgun.
- b. Attach to the handgun manufacturer's designed rail system.
- c. Illuminate at 100 lumens or brighter.
- d. Not incorporate a laser sighting or targeting feature. Must be a flashlight only.

3-5.4.2 Requests to Utilize Handgun Mounted Flashlight

Requests to utilize a handgun mounted flashlight shall be made according to the following procedure:

- a. Postal Inspectors, Postal Police Managers and Postal Police Officers should submit a written request to utilize a handgun mounted flashlight and appropriate holster, which accommodates the handgun mounted flashlight, to the appropriate PCES Manager.
- b. The PCES Manager will provide a written response to the requesting Postal Inspector, Postal Police Manager or Officer approving or disapproving the request with a copy to the Division Firearms Coordinator (DFC).
- c. The approval shall become effective when the Postal Inspector, Postal Police Manager or Officer has qualified with handgun mounted flashlight and corresponding holster. The DFC will provide written documentation to the authorizing official verifying that the Postal Inspector, Postal Police Manager or Officer has qualified with the standard issue or agency-authorized handgun and handgun mounted flashlight. Copies of the documentation will be retained by the DFC.

3-5.4.3 Requirements for Handgun Mounted Flashlight Use

Postal Inspectors, Postal Police Managers or Officers choosing to utilize a handgun mounted flashlight must comply with the following requirements:

- a. All handgun mounted flashlights and corresponding holsters authorized for use must be purchased by the individual Postal Inspector, Postal Police Manager or Officer unless payment has been approved by the appropriate PCES Manager.
- b. When the handgun mounted flashlight is attached to the standard issue or agency-authorized handgun, the flashlight may only be used in situations where the Postal Inspector, Postal Police Manager or Officer is authorized and justified to draw their weapon.
- c. Postal Inspectors, Postal Police Managers or Officers must utilize a holster which accommodates the handgun mounted flashlight. The holster must comply with the requirements of ISM Section 3-6.2.1 or 3-6.2.2 as appropriate.
- d. Subsequent to the initial qualification as directed by ISM Section 3-6.2.3, Postal Inspectors, Postal Police Managers or Officers must demonstrate proficiency while using the handgun mounted flashlight during the mandatory low light course of fire on a yearly basis.

- e. Any violation of the responsibilities outlined above or safety related issues, either in the field or during qualification or demonstrations of proficiency, will terminate the authorization.